GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 2 OF 1944.

Confidential until released for publication as under:-
Evening Papers .. 29th April, 1944.
Morning Papers .. 30th April, 1944.

RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER, 1944.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1072, Toowoomba 1087, Rockhampton 1075, Townsville 1116, Bundaberg 1056 and Warwick 1059.

The above figures show the following percentage increases or decreases as compared with the dates shown.

City	March Quarter, 1944 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With		
	Year Ended June, 1939	March Quarter, 1943	December Quarter, 1943.
Brisbane	24.22	0.85	0.37
Toowoomba	27.73	1.78	0.37
Rockhampton	24.85	1.51	0.19
Townsville	22.37	1.18	0.27
Bundaberg	25.56	0.86	0.28
Warwick	28.83	1.83	0.19

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Dec. Qr. 1943	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Dec. Qr. 1943	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Dec. Qr. 1943
Brisbane ..	13.08	1.89	71.77	- 0.63	19.66	- 0.18
Toowoomba ..	23.22	1.83	70.57	- 2.21	19.02	0.09
Rockhampton	12.07	1.52	72.78	- 0.88	20.79	0.17
Townsville ..	9.53	1.75	72.74	- 1.36	19.36	- 0.08
Bundaberg ..	13.84	1.28	70.56	- 0.97	17.76	0.52
Warwick ..	15.60	1.45	67.29	- 0.84	21.36	- 0.08

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter, 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals were Brisbane 925, Toowoomba 945, Rockhampton 909, Townsville 973, Bundaberg 887 and Warwick 880.

From December quarter, 1943 to March quarter, 1944 this index showed the following percentage increases: Brisbane 1.20, Toowoomba 1.18, Rockhampton 1.00, Townsville 1.14, Bundaberg 1.03 and Warwick 1.03.

The increase was mainly due to the rise in price of bacon, eggs and onions.

Rents remained stationary in Toowoomba and Townsville, decreased by 0.13% in Rockhampton and rose in the other towns by the following percentages: Brisbane 0.12, Bundaberg 0.30 and Warwick 0.41.

Compared with March quarter, 1943 the combined Food and Rent Index decreased in three towns by the following percentages: Brisbane 0.96, Townsville 0.10, Bundaberg 0.22, and showed the following percentage increases in the other three towns: Toowoomba 2.38, Rockhampton 0.89 and Warwick 1.85.

The same movement was shown in the Food and Grocery Index, the Index rising by 3.72% in Toowoomba and falling 1.53% in Brisbane.

Rents remained stationary in three towns but showed small rises in the other three towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 0.12, Bundaberg 1.05 and Warwick 0.41.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" Series Index shows the following percentage increases: Brisbane 8.57, Toowoomba 15.10, Rockhampton 8.60, Townsville 6.22, Bundaberg 11.01 and Warwick 14.58.

Rents rose in all towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.53, Toowoomba 2.63, Rockhampton 2.13, Townsville 0.58, Bundaberg 4.84 and Warwick 12.77.

Increases were also recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39: the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in March quarter, 1944 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	1. 0. 3	1. 0. 9	19.11	19.10
Rockhampton	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 9	17. 9	1. 0. 6
Townsville	1. 0.10	1. 1. 7	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 5
Bundaberg	19. 8	1. 1. 3	15. 7	1. 0. 1
Warwick	19. 9	1. 0. 2	17. 0	1. 0. 0

Comparison of Commonwealth and State's Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1072	4.17. 0	4.17. 0a	-	1075	4.17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1143	5. 3. 5	4.19. 0a	4. 5	1139	5. 5. 6	4.19. 0	6. 6
Victoria	1129	5. 2. 2	4.17. 0b	5. 2	1125	5. 4. 3	4.16.10	7. 5
South Aust.	1098	4.19. 4	4.13. 0a	6. 4	1093	5. 1. 3	4.13. 0	8. 3
West. Aust.	1102	4.19. 9	4.19. 8a	1	1110	5. 2.10	5. 0. 2	8
Tasmania	1105	5. 0. 0	4.14. 0b	6. 0	1089	5. 0.11	4.12. 0	8.11

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay period of May, 1944. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended March 1944	QUARTERS ENDING March 1943	June 1943	Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943	March 1944
Brisbane	917	863	1074	1063	1083	1074	1068	1072
Toowoomba	906	851	1084	1068	1089	1078	1083	1087
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1077	1059	1086	1074	1073	1075
Townsville	1023	912	1117	1103	1124	1114	1113	1116
Bundaberg	(b)	841	1059	1047	1068	1058	1053	1056
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1077	1066	1086	1076	1072	1075
Warwick	914	822	1060	1040	1064	1059	1057	1059

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended March 1944	QUARTERS ENDING March 1943	June 1943	Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943	March 1944
Brisbane	901	852	927	934	942	925	914	925
Toowoomba	833	821	933	923	936	916	934	945
Rockhampton ..	858	837	906	901	918	898	900	909
Townsville	1047	916	970	974	979	964	962	973
Bundaberg	(b)	799	888	889	902	883	878	887
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	927	932	941	924	916	927
Warwick	841	768	876	864	882	870	871	880

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF Decr. 1943	March 1944	Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF Decr. 1943	March 1944
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	3.68	3.97
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.15	12.15
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Beef - Steak Rump .. .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.00	16.95
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	11.56	12.31	Beef - Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.85	7.85
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.19	12.55	Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.80	7.90
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.45	8.37	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.40	8.40
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	1.95	3.00	Mutton - chops Loin .. .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.45	8.45
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.00	7.06				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.00	15.00				
Eggs .. 1doz.	19.69	22.00	27.73				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE.

28th April, 1944.